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7 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
8 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
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10 SUSAN D. CABADING, CASE NO. 12CV605 JLS (WMc)
11 vs. **ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO**
12 **DISMISS PLAINTIFF'S**
13 **COMPLAINT**
14 (ECF No. 3)
15 Defendants.
16

17 Presently before the Court is Defendants Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. (“Wells Fargo”) and U.S.
18 Bank National Association, as trustee for MASTR Asset Backed Securities Trust 2006-NC1’s
19 (“U.S. Bank,” and collectively, “Defendants”) Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff’s Complaint. (Mot. to
20 Dismiss, ECF No. 3) Also before the Court are Plaintiff Susan D. Cabading’s (“Plaintiff”)
21 response in opposition, (Resp. in Opp’n, ECF No. 5), and Defendants’ reply in support, (Reply in
22 Supp., ECF No. 6). The hearing set for the motion on May 17, 2012, was vacated, and the matter
23 taken under submission on the papers. Having considered the parties’ arguments and the law, the
24 Court **GRANTS** Defendants’ motion.

25 **BACKGROUND**
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27 **1. Factual Background**
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On October 15, 2005, Plaintiff and her husband, Rolonda C. Cabading, obtained a loan
from New Century Mortgage Corporation in the amount of \$448,000.00. (Req. for Judicial Notice

1 (“RJN”)¹ Ex. A, at 2–21,² ECF No. 3-2) This loan was secured by a Deed of Trust on the real
 2 property located at 7954 Hemphill Drive, San Diego, California, 92126 (“Property”). (*Id.*) The
 3 Deed of Trust was subsequently assigned on August 30, 2006, to U.S. Bank, as trustee for MASTR
 4 Asset Backed Securities Trust 2006-NC1. (*Id.* Ex. C, at 26); (Compl. ¶ 7, ECF No. 1-2) And, on
 5 June 8, 2011, a Substitution of Trustee was recorded, in which Northwest Trustee Services, Inc.
 6 (“Northwest Trustee”) was substituted in as trustee. (RJN Ex. N, at 61–62, ECF No. 3-2) On that
 7 same day, Northwest Trustee recorded a Notice of Trustee’s Sale, setting a sale date of June 28,
 8 2011. (*Id.* Ex. O, at 64) The sale has not yet taken place.

9 According to Plaintiff, U.S. Bank lacked authority to “appoint or direct” Northwest Trustee
 10 to send out a Notice of Default and Election to Sell Under Deed of Trust or to conduct a Trustee’s
 11 Sale because U.S. Bank “did not and does not maintain an ownership interest in the note.”
 12 (Compl. ¶ 22, ECF No. 1-2) This is because U.S. Bank allegedly combined Plaintiff’s and
 13 hundreds of other Promissory Notes secured by Deeds of Trust into one Pooling and Servicing
 14 Agreement Trust (“PSA”) and thereafter sold fractionalized ownership interests in the trust to
 15 institutional and other investors, which allegedly deprived U.S. Bank of its ownership in the Notes.
 16 (*Id.* ¶¶ 18–21) Moreover, Plaintiff asserts that “[t]he sale of these assets at a profit reduced the
 17 amount due and owing on Plaintiff’s Note.” (*Id.* ¶ 20)

18 Plaintiff alleges that she “was required to file bankruptcy to stop said sale” of her property,
 19 (*id.* ¶ 10), and although she “qualified for a loan modification under at least two (2) of the existing
 20 federal loan modification programs and met all guidelines for loan modification on this particular
 21 Note and Deed of Trust,” (*id.* at ¶ 13), Defendants wrongfully delayed making a decision her

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23 ¹ Defendants request that the Court take judicial notice of Exhibits A through O. (RJN, ECF
 24 No. 3-1) Generally, on a motion to dismiss, a court may consider only three things: (1) “allegations
 25 contained in the pleadings,” (2) “exhibits attached to the complaint,” and (3) “matters properly subject
 26 to judicial notice.” *Swartz v. KPMG LLP*, 476 F.3d 756, 763 (9th Cir. 2007) (citation omitted).
 27 However, a court may also “consider a writing referenced in a complaint but not explicitly
 28 incorporated therein if the complaint relies on the document and its authenticity is unquestioned.” *Id.*
 (citation omitted). Plaintiff does not oppose Defendants’ request for judicial notice—and, indeed,
 Plaintiff cites to some of the documents in her opposition brief. (*See, e.g.*, Resp. in Opp’n 2, ECF No.
 5) Moreover, the documents are publicly recorded, and their authenticity is not in dispute. Thus, the
 Court takes judicial notice of these exhibits.

² Pin cites to exhibits to the RJN utilize the page numbers assigned by CM/ECF.

1 modification request, (see *id.* ¶¶ 14–17). Indeed, according to Plaintiff, as of the date she filed her
 2 state-court action, “Defendants, and each of them, have not denied Plaintiff’s request for a loan
 3 modification, nor have they approved Plaintiff’s request for a loan modification. Nevertheless,
 4 Defendants, and each of them, instituted foreclosure proceedings through U.S. Bank and its
 5 trustee, Northwest Trustee Services, Inc.” (*Id.* ¶ 17)

6 **2. Procedural Background**

7 Plaintiff filed this action on January 13, 2012, in the San Diego County Superior Court of
 8 the State of California. Soon thereafter, on March 9, 2012, Defendants removed the case to this
 9 Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b) on the basis of diversity jurisdiction. (Not. Removal 2,
 10 ECF No. 1)

11 On March 16, 2012, Defendants filed the instant motion to dismiss. (Mot. to Dismiss, ECF
 12 No. 3) Plaintiff responded on April 26, 2012,³ (Resp. in Opp’n, ECF No. 5), and Defendants
 13 replied on May 2, 2012, (Reply in Supp., ECF No. 6).

14 **LEGAL STANDARD**

15 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) permits a party to raise by motion the defense that
 16 the complaint “fail[s] to state a claim upon which relief can be granted,” generally referred to as a
 17 motion to dismiss. The Court evaluates whether a complaint states a cognizable legal theory and
 18 sufficient facts in light of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a), which requires a “short and plain
 19 statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief.” Although Rule 8 “does not
 20 require ‘detailed factual allegations,’ . . . it [does] demand[] more than an unadorned, the-
 21 defendant-unlawfully-harmed-me accusation.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009)
 22 (quoting *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007)). In other words, “a plaintiff’s
 23 obligation to provide the ‘grounds’ of his ‘entitle[ment] to relief’ requires more than labels and
 24 conclusions, and a formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action will not do.” *Twombly*,
 25 550 U.S. at 555 (citing *Papasan v. Allain*, 478 U.S. 265, 286 (1986)). “Nor does a complaint

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 27 ³ In the Court’s Order setting a briefing schedule, the Court directed Plaintiff to file an
 28 opposition by April 19, 2012. (Order, Mar. 19, 2012, ECF No. 4) The Court notes that Plaintiff’s
 opposition was therefore untimely. The Court will consider Plaintiff’s opposition in ruling on the
 instant motion, but admonishes Plaintiff that any further failures to comply with this Court’s Orders
 and deadlines may result in sanctions.

¹ suffice if it tenders ‘naked assertion[s]’ devoid of ‘further factual enhancement.’” *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678 (citing *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 557).

3 “To survive a motion to dismiss, a complaint must contain sufficient factual matter,
4 accepted as true, to ‘state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.’” *Id.* (quoting *Twombly*,
5 550 U.S. at 570); *see also* Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6). A claim is facially plausible when the facts
6 pled “allow[] the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the
7 misconduct alleged.” *Id.* (citing *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 556). That is not to say that the claim must
8 be probable, but there must be “more than a sheer possibility that a defendant has acted
9 unlawfully.” *Id.* Facts “merely consistent with” a defendant’s liability fall short of a plausible
10 entitlement to relief. *Id.* (quoting *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 557). Further, the Court need not accept
11 as true “legal conclusions” contained in the complaint. *Id.* This review requires context-specific
12 analysis involving the Court’s “judicial experience and common sense.” *Id.* at 679 (citation
13 omitted). “[W]here the well-pleaded facts do not permit the court to infer more than the mere
14 possibility of misconduct, the complaint has alleged—but it has not ‘show[n]’—‘that the pleader is
15 entitled to relief.’” *Id.* Moreover, “for a complaint to be dismissed because the allegations give
16 rise to an affirmative defense[,] the defense clearly must appear on the face of the pleading.”

17 *McCalden v. Ca. Library Ass'n*, 955 F.2d 1214, 1219 (9th Cir. 1990) (internal quotations omitted).
18 Where a motion to dismiss is granted, “leave to amend should be granted ‘unless the court
19 determines that the allegation of other facts consistent with the challenged pleading could not
20 possibly cure the deficiency.’” *DeSoto v. Yellow Freight Sys., Inc.*, 957 F.2d 655, 658 (9th Cir.
21 1992) (quoting *Schreiber Distrib. Co. v. Serv-Well Furniture Co.*, 806 F.2d 1393, 1401 (9th Cir.
22 1986)). In other words, where leave to amend would be futile, the Court may deny leave to
23 amend. *See DeSoto*, 957 F.2d at 658; *Schreiber*, 806 F.2d at 1401.

ANALYSIS

25 Read in conjunction with Plaintiff's opposition brief, Plaintiff's complaint appears to state
26 two causes of action—one for fraud and one for promissory estoppel. (See Compl., ECF No. 1-2;
27 Resp. in Opp'n, ECF No. 5) Defendants move to dismiss on the following bases: (1) Plaintiff has
28 not alleged a clear and unambiguous tender of the outstanding loan balance to Defendants;

1 (2) Plaintiff's fraud claim fails because she did not allege any wrongful conduct by Defendants
 2 sufficient to satisfy Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 8 and 9; and (3) Plaintiff has failed to state a
 3 claim for promissory estoppel. (*See generally* Mot. to Dismiss, ECF No. 3) The Court considers
 4 each argument in turn.

5 **1. Tender Rule**

6 Defendants assert that to the extent Plaintiff seeks to enjoin the foreclosure sale of the
 7 Property, the relief she seeks in her complaint is barred because "Plaintiff is required to tender the
 8 amounts owed under the note and Deed of Trust in order to enjoin the foreclosure sale." (Mot. to
 9 Dismiss 3, ECF No. 3 (citing *Arnold's Mgmt. Corp. v. Eischen*, 205 Cal. Rptr. 15, 17 (Cal. Ct.
 10 App. 1984))) It is undisputed that Plaintiff has not alleged a valid tender, (*see* Resp. in Opp'n 3,
 11 ECF No. 5), but Plaintiff contends that the tender rule is inapplicable here because she has
 12 "alleged that the holder of the Deed of Trust was not authorized to foreclose an invalid, void lien,"
 13 (*id.* (citing *Dimock v. Emerald Properties*, 97 Cal. Rptr. 2d 255, 262 (Cal. Ct. App. 2000))).

14 "Under California law, the 'tender rule' requires that as a precondition to challenging a
 15 foreclosure sale, or any cause of action implicitly integrated to the sale, the borrower must make a
 16 valid and viable tender of payment of the secured debt." *Montoya v. Countrywide Bank*, 2009 U.S.
 17 Dist. LEXIS 53920, *32 (N.D. Cal. June 25, 2009) (citing *Karlsen v. Am. Savings & Loan Ass'n*,
 18 92 Cal. Rptr. 851, 854 (Cal. Ct. App. 1971); *Eischen*, 205 Cal. Rptr. at 17); *see also Lona v.*
 19 *Citibank, N.A.*, 134 Cal. Rptr. 3d 622, 640 (Cal. Ct. App. 2011) ("Because the action is in equity, a
 20 defaulted borrower who seeks to set aside a trustee's sale is required to do equity before the court
 21 will exercise its equitable powers.").

22 Although failure to allege tender may generally bar the relief Plaintiff seeks here, the rule
 23 is subject to several exceptions. Plaintiff invokes one such exception,⁴ namely that "no tender will

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 25 ⁴ Neither party addresses the whether the tender rule should apply in this case, where the
 26 foreclosure sale has not yet taken place. *See, e.g., Tamburri v. Suntrust Mortg., Inc.*, 2011 U.S. Dist.
 27 LEXIS 144442, at *11-13 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 15, 2011) ("[A]t least one federal court has explicitly held
 28 that the tender rule only applies in cases seeking to set aside a completed sale, rather than an action
 seeking to prevent a sale in the first place." (citing *Vissuet v. Indymac Mortg. Servs.*, 2010 U.S. Dist.
 LEXIS 26241, at *6-9 & n.3 (S.D. Cal. Mar. 19, 2010)); *Bowe v. Am. Mortg. Network, Inc.*, 2012
 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 80044, at *6 (C.D. Cal. June 8, 2012) ("Courts have applied the equitable exception
 to the tender rule where plaintiffs contest the validity of a foreclosure prior to the foreclosure sale.").

1 be required when the trustor is not required to rely on equity to attack the deed because the
 2 trustee's deed is void on its face." *Lona*, 134 Cal. Rptr. 3d at 641 (citing *Dimock*, 97 Cal. Rptr. 2d
 3 at 262). Plaintiff asserts that she has alleged that "U.S. Bank (the foreclosing party) was stripped
 4 of the authority to take any action on behalf of the Notes such as Plaintiff's, because it no longer
 5 owned them." (Resp. in Opp'n 4, ECF No. 5) Thus, asserts Plaintiff, as in *Dimock*, U.S. Bank
 6 "was not authorized to foreclose an invalid, void lien" and, as in *Dimock*, Plaintiff should be
 7 exempt from the tender requirement. (*Id.* at 3)

8 The Court notes without deciding that *Dimock* may be distinguishable from the facts of
 9 this case. There, the foreclosure sale had already taken place, and the deed that the California
 10 Court of Appeal found "void on its face" was the deed that was granted to the purchaser of the
 11 property during the foreclosure sale, not the original deed of trust (which Plaintiff challenges
 12 here). *See Dimock*, 97 Cal. Rptr. 2d at 262. Moreover, unlike in *Dimock*, where the plaintiff
 13 "could rely on the face of the record to show that the . . . deed was void," *Dimock*, 97 Cal. Rptr. 2d
 14 at 262, here the record—as it currently stands—suggests the opposite, *see supra* at 2.

15 Even assuming the *Dimock* exception does not apply here, Courts have held that the tender
 16 requirement does not apply when a plaintiff challenges the beneficial interest held by the
 17 defendant, rather than the procedural process of the foreclosure itself. *See Johnson v. HSBC Bank*
 18 *USA, Nat'l Ass'n*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 36798, at *10 (S.D. Cal. Mar. 19, 2012) (holding the
 19 tender requirement does not apply where the plaintiff "is not challenging [the d]efendants'
 20 compliance with the foreclosure law, but is claiming that defendants did not properly receive the
 21 assignment of their loan"); *Vogan v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 132944, at
 22 *19 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 17, 2011). Indeed, enforcing such a requirement in circumstances where the
 23 plaintiff challenges the defendant's claim to the debt would make little sense—if a defendant truly
 24 has no legally enforceable beneficial interest in the property at issue, then a plaintiff will not need
 25 to pay the debt secured in order to obtain a judicial declaration of that fact. *See Onofrio v. Rice*, 64
 26 Cal. Rptr. 2d 74, 80 (Cal. Ct. App. 1997) ("[I]f the action attacks the validity of the underlying
 27 debt, a tender is not required since it would constitute an affirmative of the debt.") The Court
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1 agrees with *Johnson* and *Vogan* that tender is not required in such circumstances. Accordingly,
 2 because the gravamen of Plaintiff's complaint seems aimed at attacking Defendants' interest in the
 3 debt, and because of the Court's concerns whether the tender rule applies in these factual
 4 circumstances, *see supra* note 4, the Court declines to dismiss these claims for Plaintiff's failure to
 5 plead tender, and turns instead to the other insufficiencies of these claims.

6 **2. Fraud Claim**

7 Plaintiff's first claim is for fraud, on the basis that U.S. Bank's act of creating the PSA and
 8 selling ownership interests in that trust to third-party investors without notice to Plaintiff "renders
 9 any foreclosure attempts by U.S. Bank or its agents and employees, including Northwest Trustee
 10 Services, Inc., void and of no force and effect." (Compl. ¶ 27, ECF No. 1-2) Defendants assert
 11 that Plaintiff's fraud claim fails because she has not alleged the necessary elements of a fraud
 12 claim, and because she has failed to allege "the 'who, what, where' requirements of pleading
 13 fraud." (Mot. to Dismiss 6, ECF No. 3)

14 To state a claim for misrepresentation or fraud under California law, a plaintiff must plead
 15 "(1) misrepresentation (false representation, concealment, or nondisclosure); (2) knowledge of
 16 falsity (scienter); (3) intent to defraud (i.e., to induce reliance); (4) justifiable reliance; and
 17 (5) resulting damage." *Alliance Mortg. Co. v. Rothwell*, 900 P.2d 601, 608 n.4 (Cal. 1995)
 18 (quoting *Molko v. Holy Spirit Assn.*, 762 P.2d 46, 53 (Cal. 1988)). Moreover, the fraud claim is
 19 subject to the heightened pleading requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 9(b). *See*
 20 *Neilson v. Union Bank, N.A.*, 290 F. Supp. 2d 1101, 1141 (C.D. Cal. 2003). Under this rule, a
 21 plaintiff must "state with particularity the circumstances constituting the fraud." Fed. R. Civ. P.
 22 9(b).

23 Plaintiff's allegations are centered on Defendants' alleged wrongdoing in transferring
 24 Plaintiff's Note into the PSA, where it remained for mere minutes before fractionalized interests
 25 were sold to third-party investors, all without Plaintiff's knowledge.⁵ According to Plaintiff, this

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 27 ⁵ Plaintiff does not indicate why Defendants were required to inform her of their transfer of
 28 the loan into the PSA. To the extent Plaintiff's fraud claim is based on Defendants' failure to notify
 her of the transfer, the Court notes that the Deed of Trust expressly states that "The Note or a partial

1 act deprived U.S. Bank of any interest in Plaintiff's loan, and—although U.S. Bank “was aware
 2 that it had no ownership interest in Plaintiff's Note”—it nevertheless fraudulently directed
 3 Northwest Trustee to commence foreclosure proceedings “in an effort to circumvent the law and
 4 shortcut the legal process.” (Resp. in Opp'n 4–5, ECF No. 5) Because Plaintiff's fraud claim is
 5 premised on the assumption that U.S. Bank has no lawful ownership in Plaintiff's Note due to the
 6 transfer to the PSA, and because—as explained—this assumption fails, Plaintiff's fraud claim
 7 necessarily fails.

8 Plaintiff conclusively states that Defendants lost their interest in the Note by virtue of its
 9 transfer into the PSA, citing no authority and providing no reasoning for this assertion. (See
 10 Compl. ¶¶ 21–22, ECF No. 1-2; Resp. in Opp'n 4, ECF No. 5) Unwavering case law suggests the
 11 opposite; courts have consistently held that defendant banks do not lose their right to enforce the
 12 terms of a Deed of Trust by transferring the loan into a PSA. *See, e.g., Hafiz v. Greenpoint Mortg.*
 13 *Funding, Inc.*, 652 F. Supp. 2d 1039, 1043 (N.D. Cal. 2009); *Lane v. Vitek Real Estate Indus.*
 14 *Grp.*, 713 F. Supp. 2d 1092, 1099 (E.D. Cal. 2010). Indeed, under California law, Defendants are
 15 not required to possess the original note prior to commencing foreclosure proceedings. *See* Cal.
 16 Civ. Code § 2924(a) (describing the process whereby a foreclosure is commenced by the recording
 17 of a notice of default and election to sell by the trustee). Courts have consistently dismissed
 18 claims brought by plaintiffs asserting that a foreclosure is invalid because of the trustee's failure to
 19 possess the original note or other failures of assignment to the trustee. *See, e.g., Quintero Family*
 20 *Trust v. OneWest Bank, FSB*, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 6618, at *21 (S.D. Cal. Jan. 27, 2010)
 21 (rejecting a wrongful foreclosure claim because producing an original note is not a prerequisite to
 22 foreclosure in California); *Calderon v. Endres, APC*, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 57936, at *8 (S.D.
 23 Cal. July 7, 2009) (“[Cal. Civ. Code § 2924, et seq.] does not require the entity initiating the
 24 foreclosure sale to provide evidence to the borrower or a court establishing its right to do so, nor
 25 does it require that entity to have possession of the note.”).

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 28 interest in the Note (together with this Security Instrument) can be sold one or more times without
 prior notice to Borrower.” (RJN Ex. A, at 12, ECF No. 3-2)

1 Thus, the Court **DISMISSES** Plaintiff's fraud claim **WITHOUT PREJUDICE** for failure
 2 to state a claim.

3 **3. Promissory Estoppel**

4 Plaintiff's second claim is for promissory estoppel, premised on the assertion that
 5 Defendants promised to suspend foreclosure proceedings while reviewing her for a loan
 6 modification. (See Compl. ¶¶ 12–17, 30–33, ECF No. 1-2) Defendants move to dismiss this claim
 7 asserting that "this allegation is insufficient to state a viable cause of action for promissory
 8 estoppel." (Mot. to Dismiss 7, ECF No. 3)

9 Promissory estoppel will bind a promisor "when he should reasonably expect a substantial
 10 change of position, either by act or forbearance, in reliance on his promise, if injustice can be
 11 avoided only by its enforcement." *Raedeka v. Gibraltar Sav. & Loan Ass'n*, 517 P.2d 1157, 1161
 12 n.1 (Cal. 1974) (quoting *Youngman v. Nev. Irrigation Dist.*, 449 P.2d 462, 468 (Cal. 1969)).

13 Courts have broken this doctrine down into four elements: "(1) a promise that is clear and
 14 unambiguous in its terms; (2) reliance by the party to whom the promise is made; (3) the reliance
 15 must be reasonable and foreseeable; and (4) the party asserting the estoppel must be injured by his
 16 or her reliance." *Boon Rawd Trading Int'l Co., Ltd. v. Paleewong Trading Co., Inc.*, 688 F. Supp.
 17 2d 940, 953 (N.D. Cal. 2010) (citing *U.S. Ecology, Inc. v. State*, 28 Cal. Rptr. 3d 894, 904–07
 18 (Cal. Ct. App. 2005)).

19 As to the first element, Plaintiff alleges that representatives of Defendants "expressly
 20 promised, warranted and represented to Plaintiff that no foreclosure would be conducted until
 21 Defendants had completed a review of Plaintiff's loan modification application and expressly
 22 warranted that no foreclosure would occur unless and until Plaintiff's request for a loan
 23 modification had been denied." (Compl. ¶ 16, ECF No. 1-2) Defendants argue that this allegation
 24 does not constitute a "clear, unambiguous, and enforceable promise" sufficient to state a claim for
 25 promissory estoppel. (Mot. to Dismiss 7–8, ECF No. 3) Though the allegation lacks factual
 26 detail, the Court need not determine whether it is sufficient to withstand a motion to dismiss
 27 because Plaintiff did not allege detrimental reliance.

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1 Plaintiff asserts that she relied on this oral promise in that she “did not seek refinancing
 2 someplace else” (Resp. in Opp’n 5, ECF No. 5) In other words, Plaintiff asserts that she
 3 would have pursued other means to avoid foreclosure had Defendants not promised to delay
 4 foreclosing until the decision on Plaintiff’s loan modification request. Plaintiff has not alleged,
 5 however, whether she realistically could have obtained a loan modification elsewhere, or
 6 whether—having obtained a loan modification—she would have successfully made payments on
 7 the loan sufficient to withstand foreclosure. Indeed, as Defendants point out, “Defendants gave
 8 Plaintiff a loan modification, however, she failed to make even a single payment under the
 9 modification agreement.” (Mot. to Dismiss 11–12, ECF No. 3 (footnotes omitted) (citing (RJN
 10 Exs. I–J, ECF No. 3-2))) “Plaintiff has failed, therefore, to allege sufficient facts to establish a
 11 connection between her reliance on the alleged promise and [the pending foreclosure] to sustain
 12 her claim for estoppel.” *Newgent v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 18476, at *18
 13 (S.D. Cal. Mar. 2, 2010).⁶

14 Plaintiff likens her situation to the facts in *Aceves v. U.S. Bank N.A.*, 120 Cal. Rptr. 3d 507
 15 (Cal. Ct. App. 2011), where the California Court of Appeal allowed a plaintiff’s promissory
 16 estoppel claim to go forward where the plaintiff had alleged that she relied on the defendant bank’s
 17 promise to modify her loan by forgoing Chapter 13 bankruptcy protection. But unlike in *Aceves*,
 18 where the bank had already gone through with the foreclosure sale, here, the foreclosure on
 19 Plaintiff’s property has not yet occurred and there is nothing precluding Plaintiff from pursuing
 20 bankruptcy proceedings now. Indeed, Plaintiff indicates in her complaint that she previously filed
 21 for bankruptcy in order to stop the foreclosure sale scheduled for January 2012. Though the
 22 complaint does not indicate the date on which Defendants (allegedly) promised to postpone
 23 foreclosure until after Plaintiff’s loan modification, the complaint does indicate that the decision
 24 on her request was delayed for over six months. (Compl. ¶ 15, ECF No. 1-2) Thus, it would
 25 appear that Plaintiff filed for bankruptcy at some time *after* the alleged promise was made,

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 27 ⁶ Having found that Plaintiff failed to allege sufficient facts pertaining to the element of
 28 detrimental reliance, the Court will not consider the other elements of a promissory estoppel claim,
 and makes no final judgment as to their presence or absence in Plaintiff’s complaint.

1 undermining Plaintiff's attempt to liken her circumstances to those present in *Aceves*.

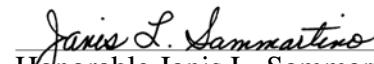
2 Thus, the Court **DISMISSES** Plaintiff's promissory estoppel claim **WITHOUT**
3 **PREJUDICE** for failure to state a claim.

4 **CONCLUSION**

5 For the reasons stated above, the Court **GRANTS** Defendants' motion to dismiss.
6 Plaintiff's complaint is **DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE**. If Plaintiff wishes, she may file
7 an amended complaint within twenty-one days after this Order is electronically docketed.

8 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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10 DATED: September 21, 2012

11 
12 Honorable Janis L. Sammartino
United States District Judge

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